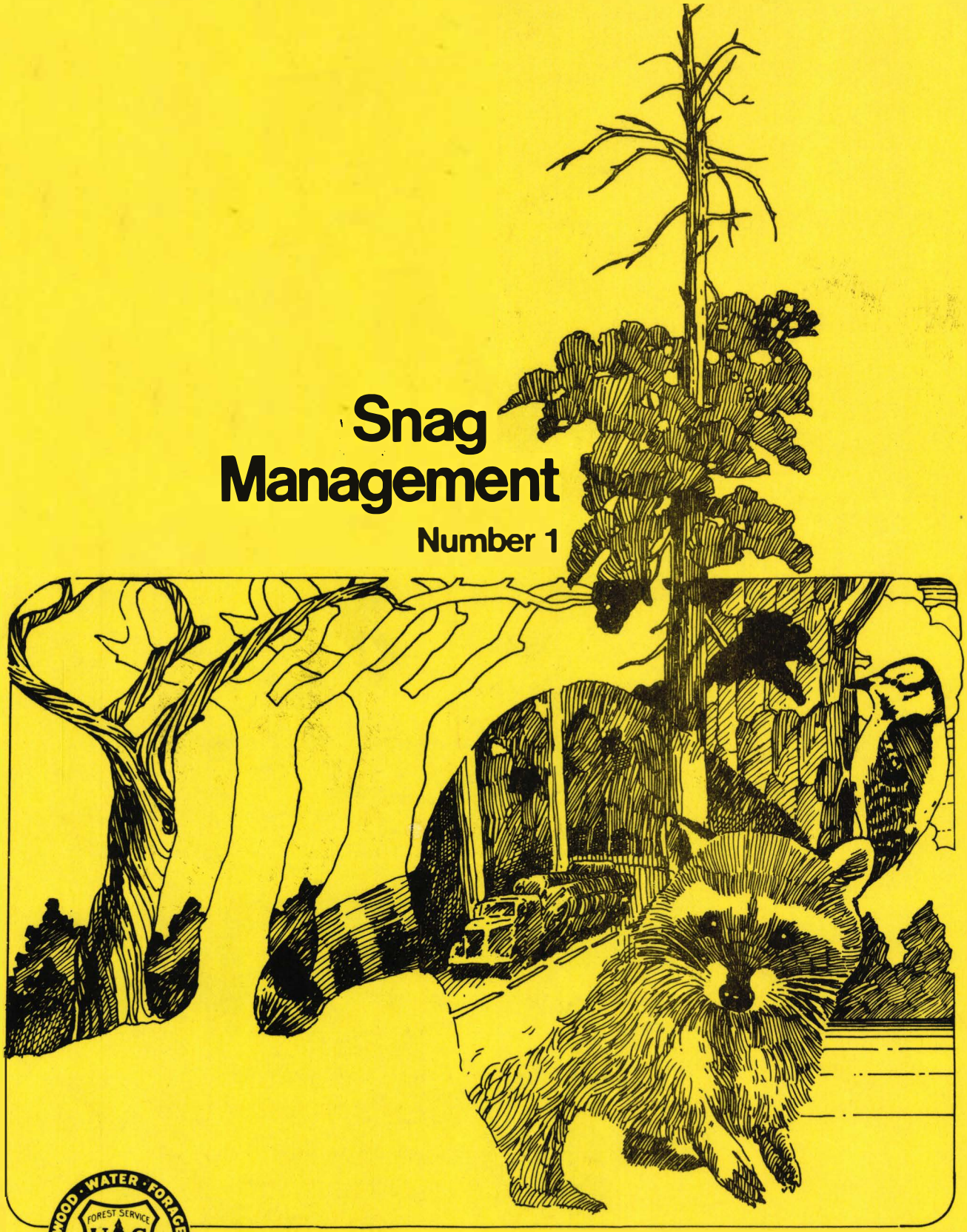
# Snag Management

## Number 1



## Coordination Guidelines for Wildlife Habitats

U. S. D. A. Forest Service - California Region

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ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

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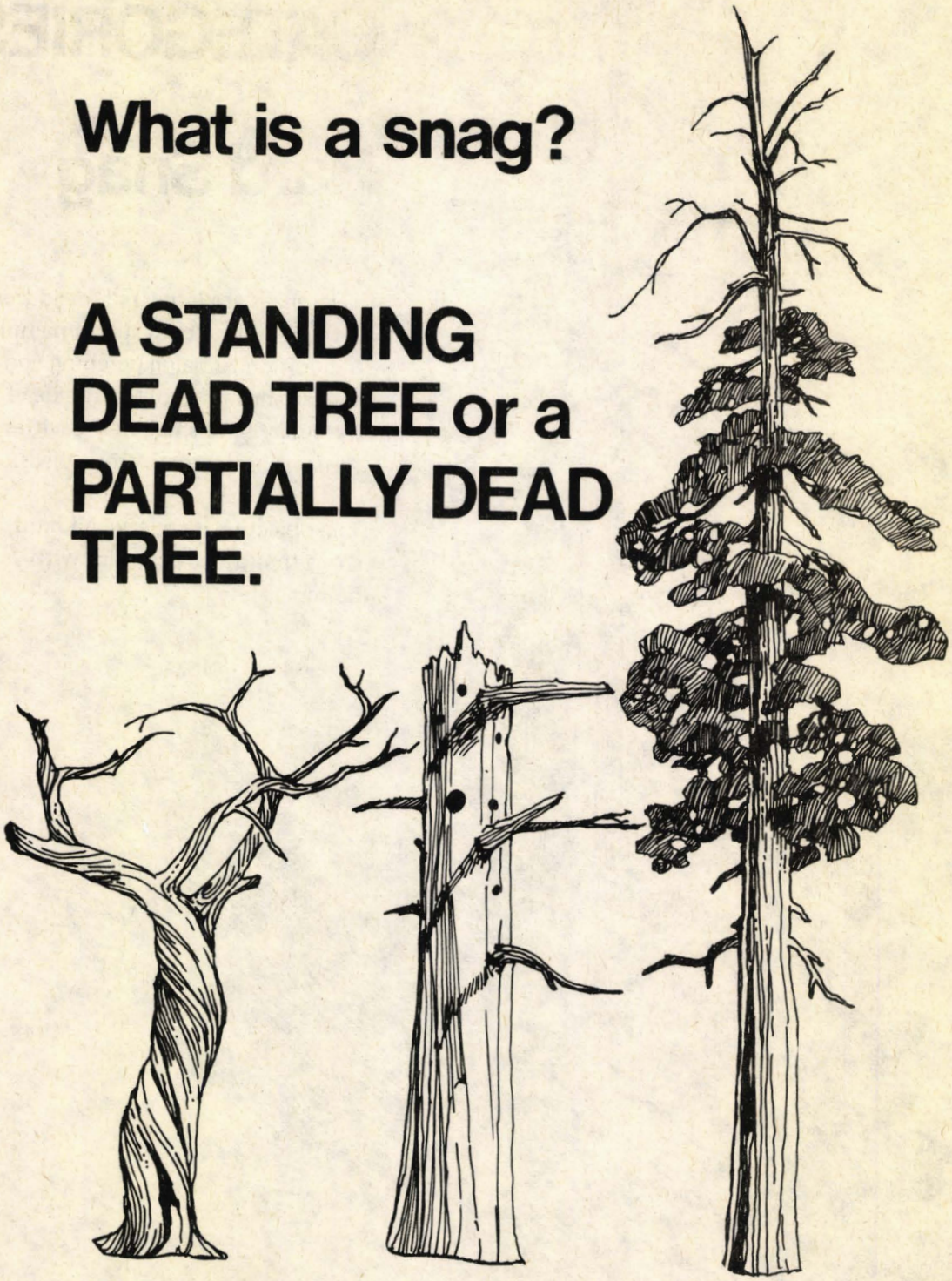
# What is a snag?

## A STANDING DEAD TREE or a PARTIALLY DEAD TREE.



# SNAG CATEGORIES:

## Hard Snag

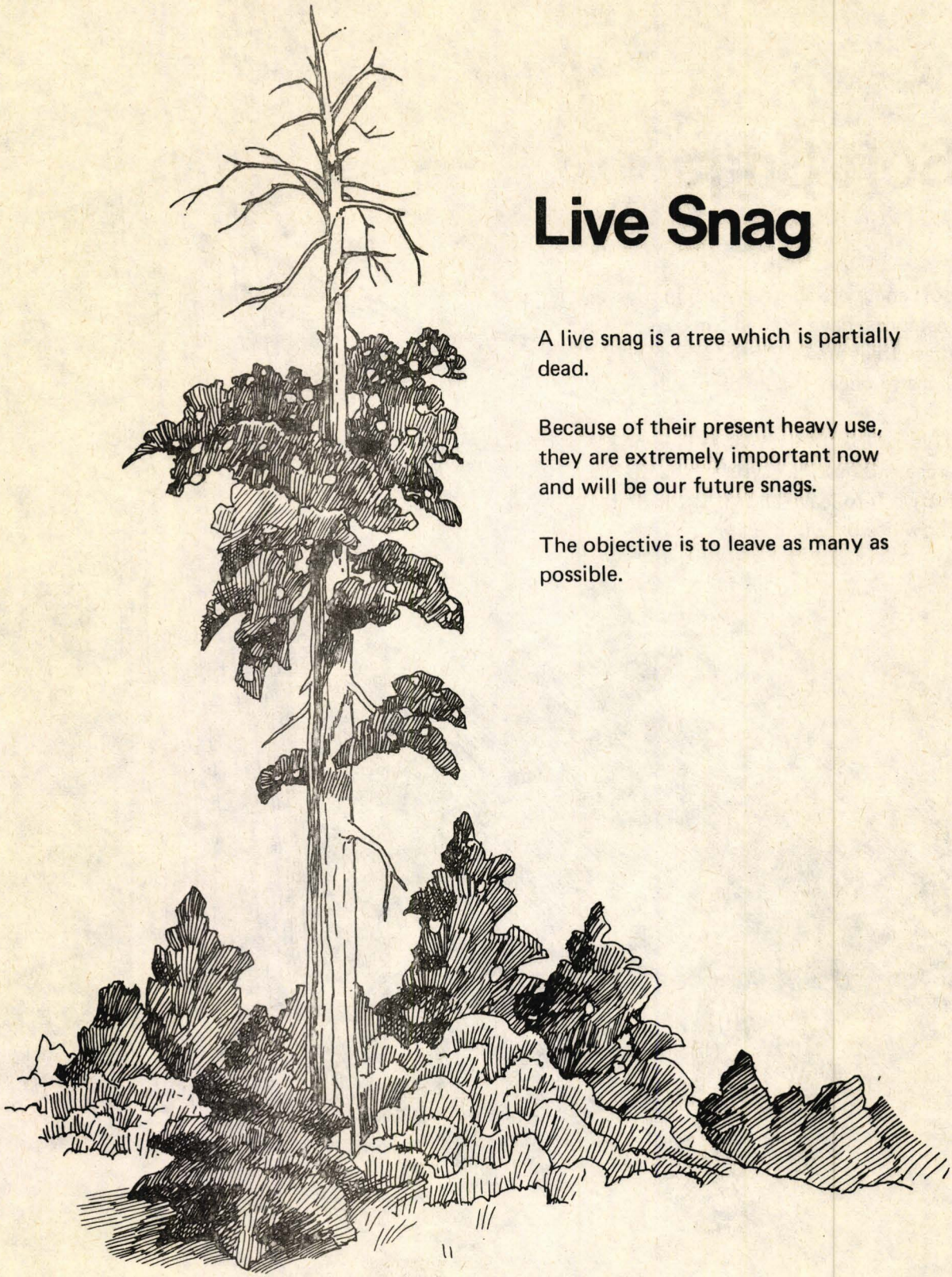
Hard snags are large, tall, dead trees with many branches still remaining. In addition to being perching and nesting sites for raptors, the dead trees may have small nest cavities for song and insectivorous birds.

The objective is to leave all hard snags that do not conflict with human safety.

# Soft Snag

Soft snags are shorter, and, in most instances, have broken tops. Usually these trees are in a more advanced stage of decay than a hard snag.

This type of tree provides feeding areas and nesting cavities. The objective is to leave all soft snags that show use by wildlife.



# Live Snag

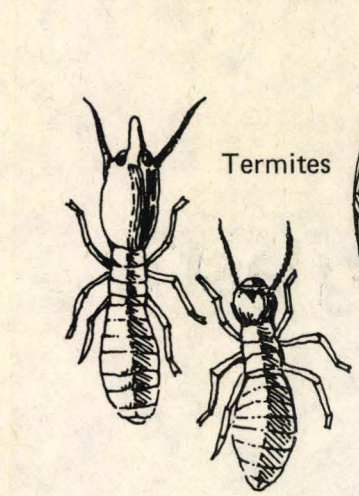
A live snag is a tree which is partially dead.

Because of their present heavy use, they are extremely important now and will be our future snags.

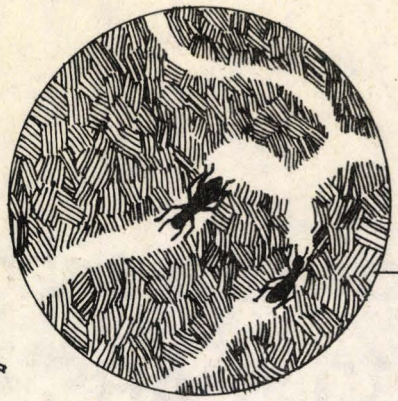
The objective is to leave as many as possible.

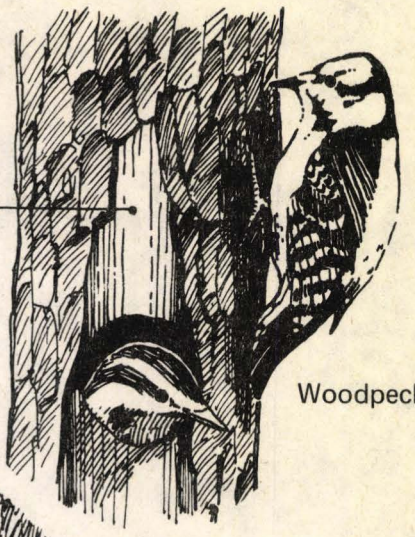
# Who needs it? EVERYBODY!

- 30 SPECIES OF BIRDS.
- 20 SPECIES OF MAMMALS.
- MANY DECOMPOSER INSECTS.
- PLUS THOUSANDS OF OTHER ORGANISMS.



Termites





Woodpeckers

Raccoons

Owl

Squirrels

Wood Ducks

**How long will a snag last?**

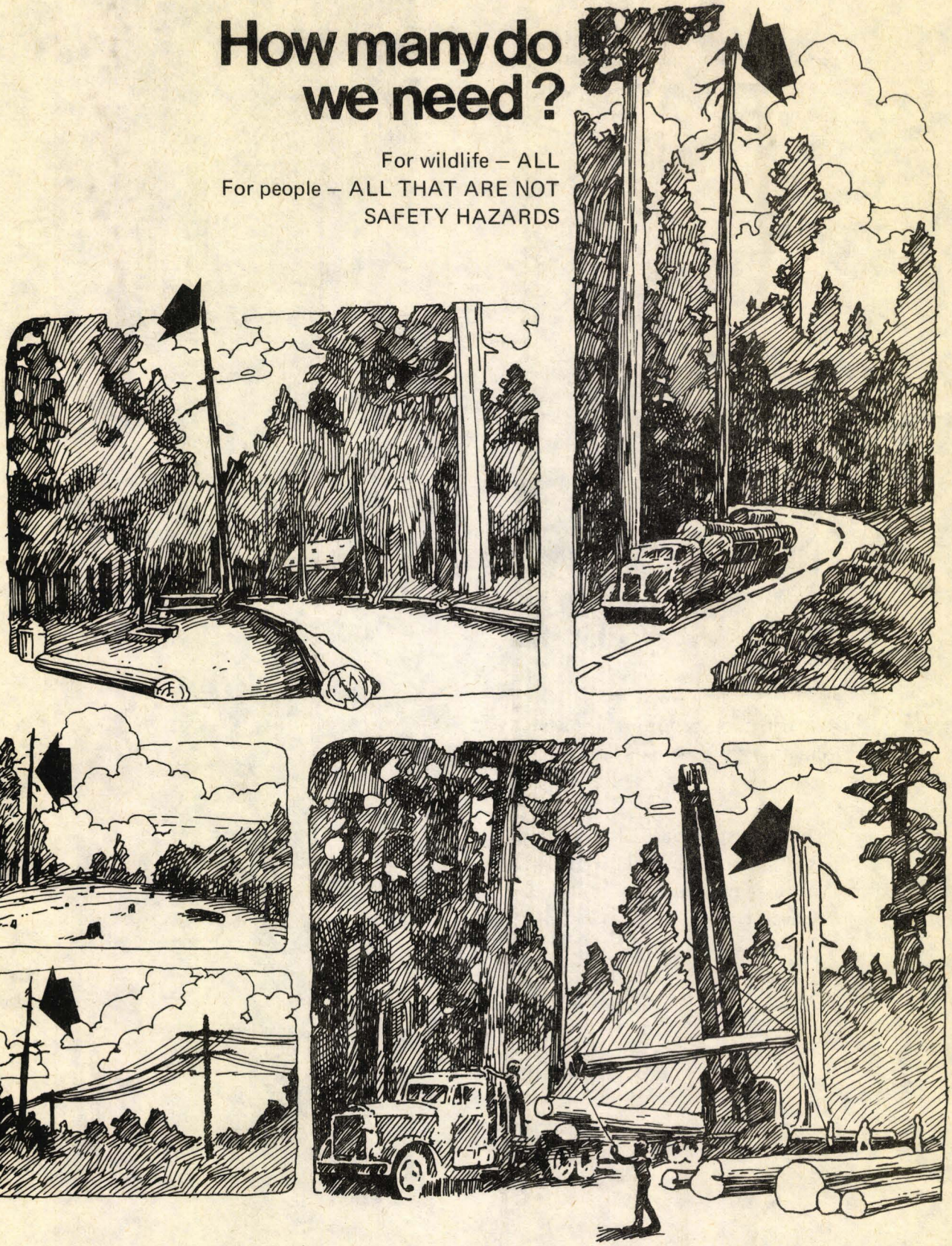
**ABOUT 30 YEARS.**

**What happens when it is gone or cut ?**

**GONE ALSO ARE THE WILDLIFE SPECIES WHICH DEPEND ON IT.**

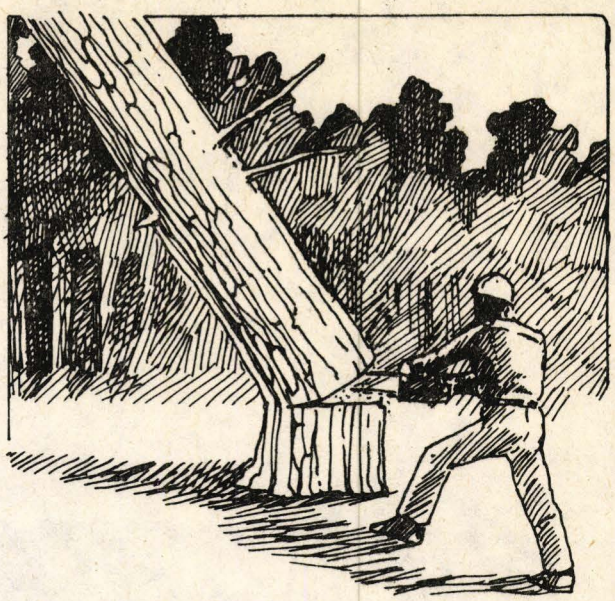
# How many do we need?

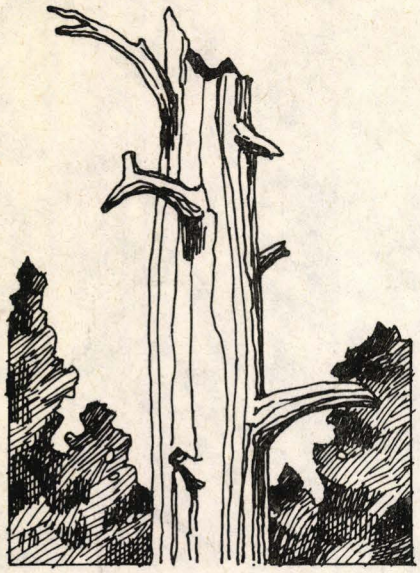
For wildlife – ALL
For people – ALL THAT ARE NOT SAFETY HAZARDS



# Now what?

In areas of normal harvests, snags of suitable size for wildlife are being reduced.





The time between harvests is too short to grow trees which will produce snags of desirable dimensions.

We can plan for future needs by creating a snag from a live cull tree.

The Forest Wildlife Biologist can assist in determining how many snags are needed for wildlife in a specific area.

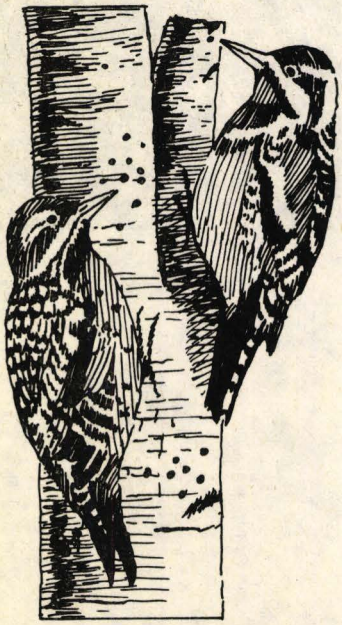
Both low timber value:
Flat top (left)
Spike top (right)

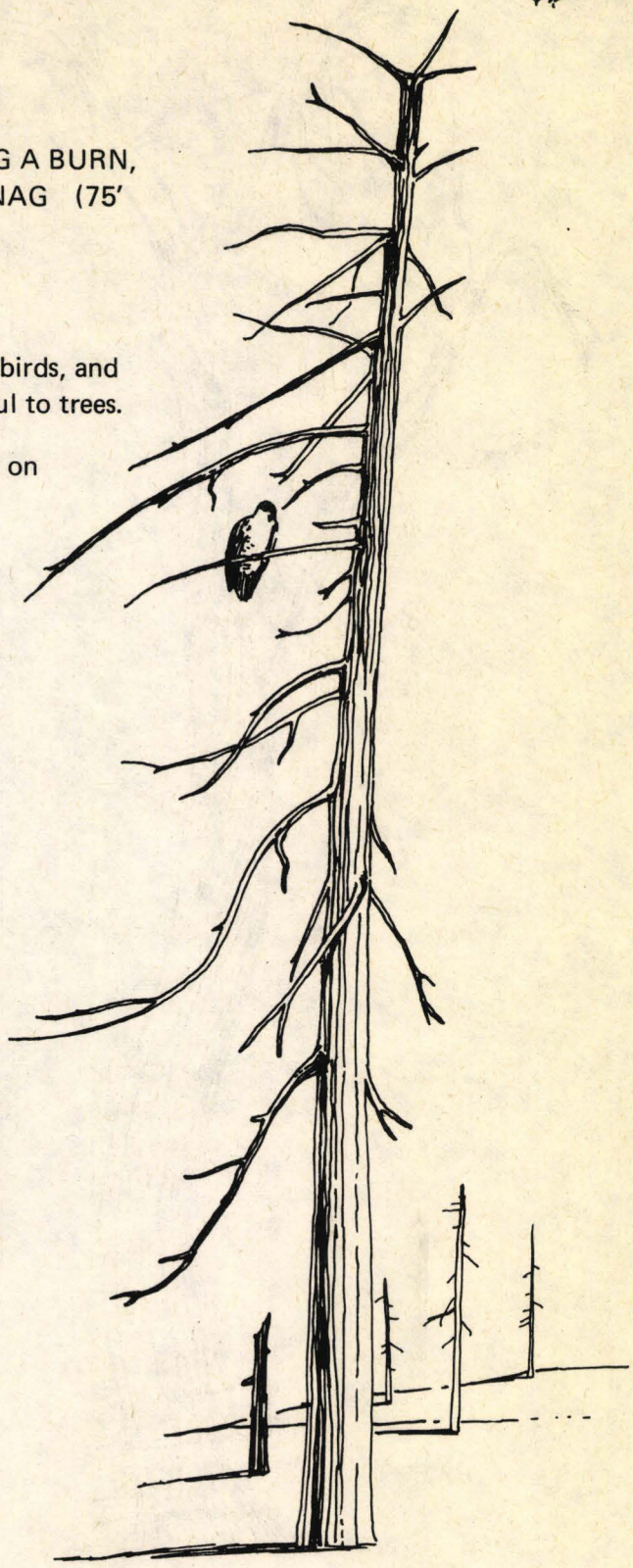
WHEN SALVAGING OR REFORESTING A BURN, LEAVE A MINIMUM OF ONE HARD SNAG (75' to 125' in height) PER ACRE.

These are valuable as:

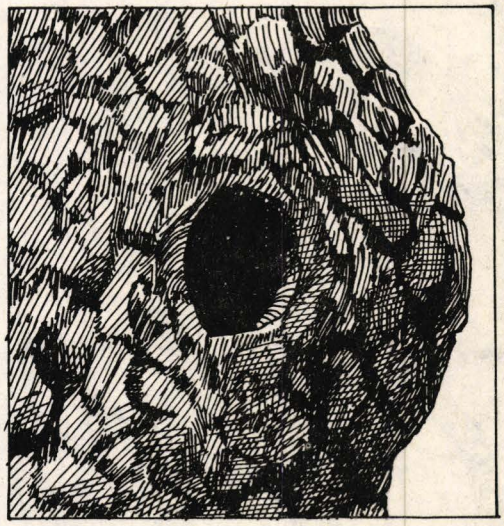
1. Homes for woodpeckers, insectivorous birds, and song birds which feed on insects harmful to trees.
2. Hunting perches for raptors which feed on mammals that are injurious to trees.

OBJECTIVE would be to average a minimum of one tree per acre, reasonably distributed.





# HARDWOOD SNAGS are also important.

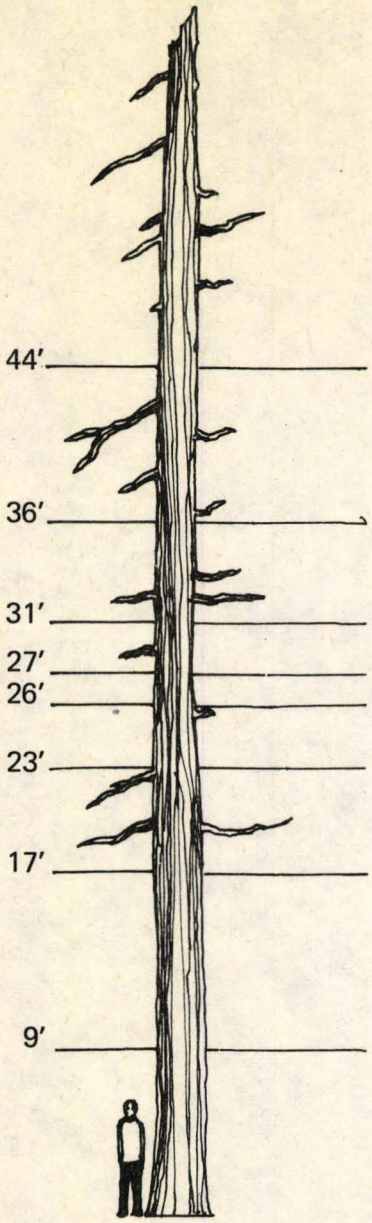


A simple checklist of life in a "dead" tree would include the following things that makes it a "living" ecosystem:

| | Feed on Tree | Hunt in or on Tree | "Nest" in Tree | Hunt from Tree | More or Less Depends on Tree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. A Variety of Fungi | x | | | | |
| 2. Termites | x | | x | | |
| 3. Spiders | | x | | | |
| 4. Insects | | | | | |
| Long-horned Beetles | x | | | | |
| Ergates sp. | x | | x | | x |
| Metallic-wood Bores | | | | | |
| Buprestidae in part | x | | | | x |
| Ostomidae | | x | x | | |
| Cucujidae | | x | x | | |
| Carpenter Ants, Camponotus | | x | x | x | |
| Carpenter Bees, Xylocopidae | | | x | x | |
| 5. Birds | | | | | |
| Hawks, mostly Buteo | | | | x | |
| Owls | | | | | |
| Great Gray Owl | | | x | x | x |
| Pygmy Owl | | | x | | x |
| Barn Owl | | | x | | |
| Screech Owl | | | x | | |
| Other Owls | | | x | | |
| Woodpeckers | | | | | |
| Red-shafted flickers | | x | x | | x |
| Pileated | | x | x | | x |
| California | | x | x | | x |
| Lewis | | x | x | | x |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | x | | |
| Williamson's Sapsucker | | | x | | |
| Hairy | | x | x | | x |
| Downy | | x | x | | x |
| Nuttal's | | x | x | | x |
| White-headed | | x | x | | x |
| Black-backed 3-toed | | x | x | | x |
| Flycatchers, Several Species | | | | x | x |
| Ash-throated | | | x | x | x |
| Olivesided | | | x | | |
| Swallows | | | | | |
| Violet-green | | | x | | x |
| Tree | | | x | | x |
| Passerine Birds | | | | | |
| Titmouse | | | x | | |
| Chickadee | | | x | | |
| Nuthatches, 3 species | | | x | | |

| | Feed on Tree | Hunt in or on Tree | "Nest" in Tree | Hunt from Tree | More or Less Depends on Tree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| House Wren | | | x | | |
| Bewick's Wren | | | x | | |
| Western Bluebird | | | x | | x |
| Mountain Bluebird | | | x | | x |
| 6. Mammals | | | | | |
| Bats, Several Species | | | x | | |
| Ringtail | | | x | | |
| Racoon | | | x | | |
| Marten | | | x | | x |
| Weasel | | x | | | |
| Man, including Bird-watchers, naturalists, ecologists, and the interested and curious | | | | | x |

Life in a dead tree is varied and the interrelationships complex. A complete food chain exists in and on the snag but other relationships are broader, tying the snag into the rest of the forest community. It is food and shelter for plants and animals until it crumbles and falls to play its final role in enriching the soil and building a new generation of living things. It is working to improve the environment.




After Siri Jackman "Some Characteristics of Cavity Nesters: Can We Ever Have Enough"